

# **RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS**



# RIVER CROSSING OPERATION

- RIVER
- TERRAIN
- ENEMY



# TYPES OF RIVER CROSSING OPERATION

- HASTY
- DELIBERATE
- RETROGRADE



# OFFENSIVE RIVER CROSSING OPERATION

- HASTY
- DELIBERATE



# **HASTY RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS ARE CHARACTERIZED**

- SPEED, SURPRISE, AND MINIMUM LOSS OF MOMENTUM
- DECENTRALIZED OPERATIONS WITH ORGANIC, EXISTING OR EXPEDIENT RESOURCES
- WEAK ENEMY DEFENSES ON BOTH BANKS
- MINIMUM CONCENTRATION OF FORCES (I.E CROSSING ON A WIDE FRONT)
- QUICK CONTINUATION OF THE ATTACK

# **DELIBERATE RIVER CROSSINGS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY:**

- THE FAILURE OR INFEASIBILITY OF A HASTY RIVER CROSSING
- DETAILED PLANNING AND CENTRALIZED CONTROL
- A DELIBRATE PAUSE TO PREPARE, ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL BRIDGING/RAFTING EQUIPMENT, AND CONCENTRATE COMBAT POWER
- CLEARANCE OF ENEMY FORCES FROM THE ENTRY POINT

# **DEFENSIVE RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS**

## **DEFENSIVE RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS**

# **RETROGRADE OPERATIONS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY:**

- DETAILED PLANNING AND CENTRALIZED CONTROL
- ENEMY CONTROL OF MANEUVER INITIATIVE
- HIGH RISK TO FRIENDLY FORCES
- FORCES ON EXIT BANK PROVIDING OVERWATCHING FIRES
- FORCES DELAYING ENEMY'S ADVANCES TO TRADE SPACE FOR TIME AT THE CROSSING SITES



# **DIFFERENCE IN RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS AND OTHER OPERATIONS**

- SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED
- COMMAND AND CONTROL ARE DIFFICULT
- COURSE OF ACTION ARE LIMITED

# BRIDGEHEAD

THE AREA ON THE ENEMY SIDE OF THE  
OBSTACLE  
THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE  
THE  
MAJORITY OF THE CROSSING FORCE TO  
PERMIT  
DEFENSE OF THE CROSSING SITES. IT  
PROVIDES A  
BASE AREA FOR CONTINUED ATTACK

# **BRIDGEHEAD LINE**

THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE BRIDGEHEAD  
THAT IS TIED TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT  
FLANKS OF THE CROSSING FRONT

# CROSSING FRONT

THE LENGTH OF THE RIVER LINE IN  
THE ZONE OF THE CROSS FORCE. IT  
CONTAINS ONE OR MORE CROSSING  
AREAS/SITES

# THE CROSSING SITES

LOCATIONS ALONG THE OBSTACLE  
WHERE THE ACTUAL CROSSINGS  
ARE MADE

# OBJECTIVES

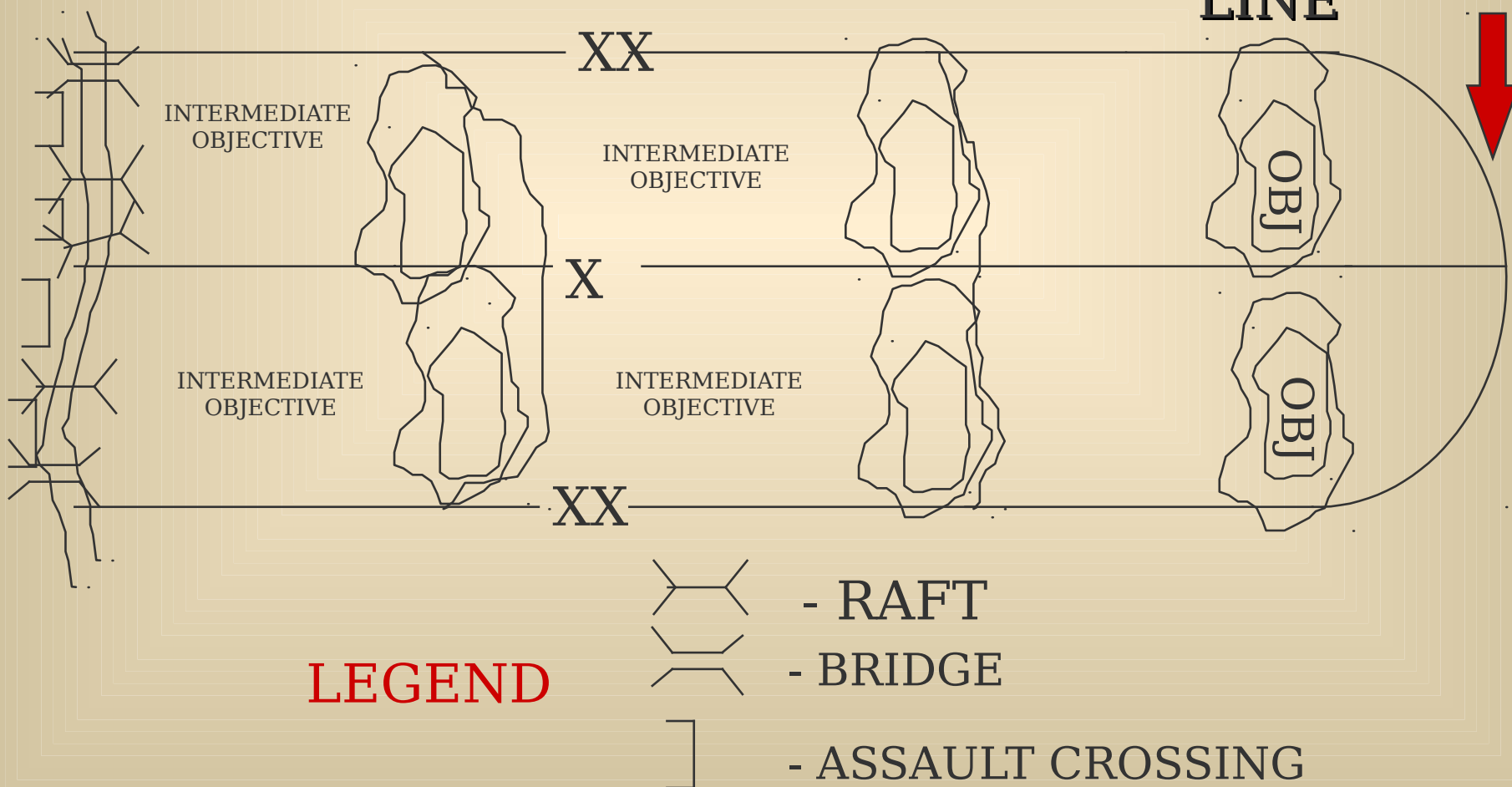
- CORPS BRIDGEHEAD
- DIVISION OBJECTIVE
- BRIGADE OBJECTIVE
- INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVE

# **BRIGADE INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVE**

- PROVIDES SPACE TO REORGANIZE
- DENY DIRECT FIRE
- ELIMINATE RESISTANCE
- REASONABLY DEFENDABLE
- PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT-BRIDGES AND RAFTS
- ELIMINATE RIVER OBSTACLE FOR BRIGADE

# BRIDGEHEAD AREA W/INTERMEDATE

## OBJECTIVES BRIDGEHEAD LINE





# PLANNING SEQUENCE

ADVANCE TO THE RIVER (PHASE I)

ASSAULT ACROSS THE RIVER (PHASE II)

ADVANCE FROM THE EXIT BANK (PHASE  
III)

SECURE THE BRIDGEHEAD LINE (PHASE  
IV)

# **CROSSING AREAS**

- CONTROLLED ACCESS AREAS THAT PERMITS SWIFT MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC
- BOTH SIDES OF RIVER, DEFINED BY BDE BOUNDARY LINES AND RELEASE LINES
- NORMALLY EXTENDS 3- 4 KM ON EACH SIDE OF RIVER, DEPENDING

# THE CROSSING AREA

ALSO INCLUDES THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN  
AS DESCRIBED AS:

- ENTRY BANK (SHORE) - SIDE OF WATER OBSTACLE INITIALLY ENCOUNTERED BY FRIENDLY FORCES
- EXIT BANK (SHORE) - IS THE SIDE OPPOSITE ENTRY BANK

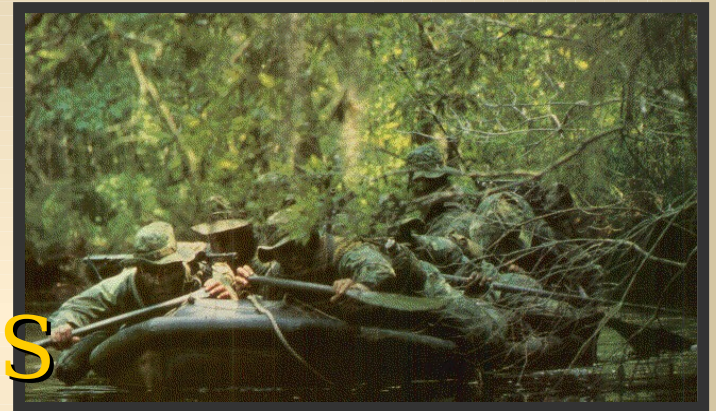
# CROSSING FORCE

IS THE OVERALL FORCE INVOLVED  
IN THE OPERATION



# DIVISION OF FORCES

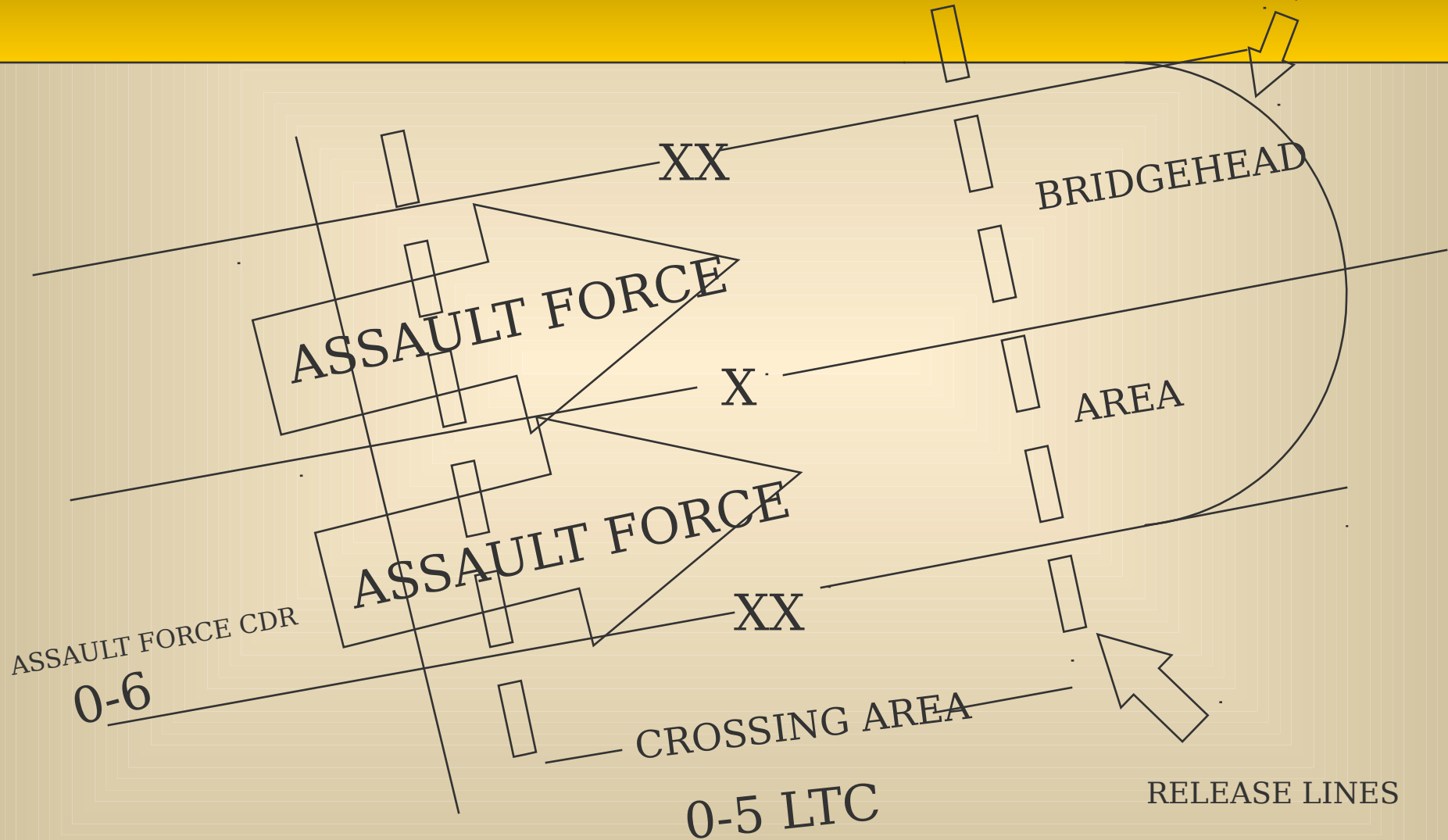
- ASSAULT FORCES
- FOLLOW-UP FORCES
- SUPPORT FORCES
- COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT



# DIVISION CDR

## 2 STAR GO

BRIDGEHEAD  
LINE



# STAGING AREAS

WAITING SPACES FOR CONVOYS DESIGNATED TO CROSS THE RIVER AND ARE LOCATED FAR ENOUGH FROM THE RIVER TO FACILITATE REROUTING AND USE OF THE ALTERNATE ROADS TO RAFT AND BRIDGE SITES

# **STAGING AREA REQUIREMENT**

- COVER AND CONCEALMENT
- EASY ACCESSIBILITY
- SUFFICIENT AREA FOR VEHICLE AND EQUIP  
DISPERSION



# STAGING AREAS



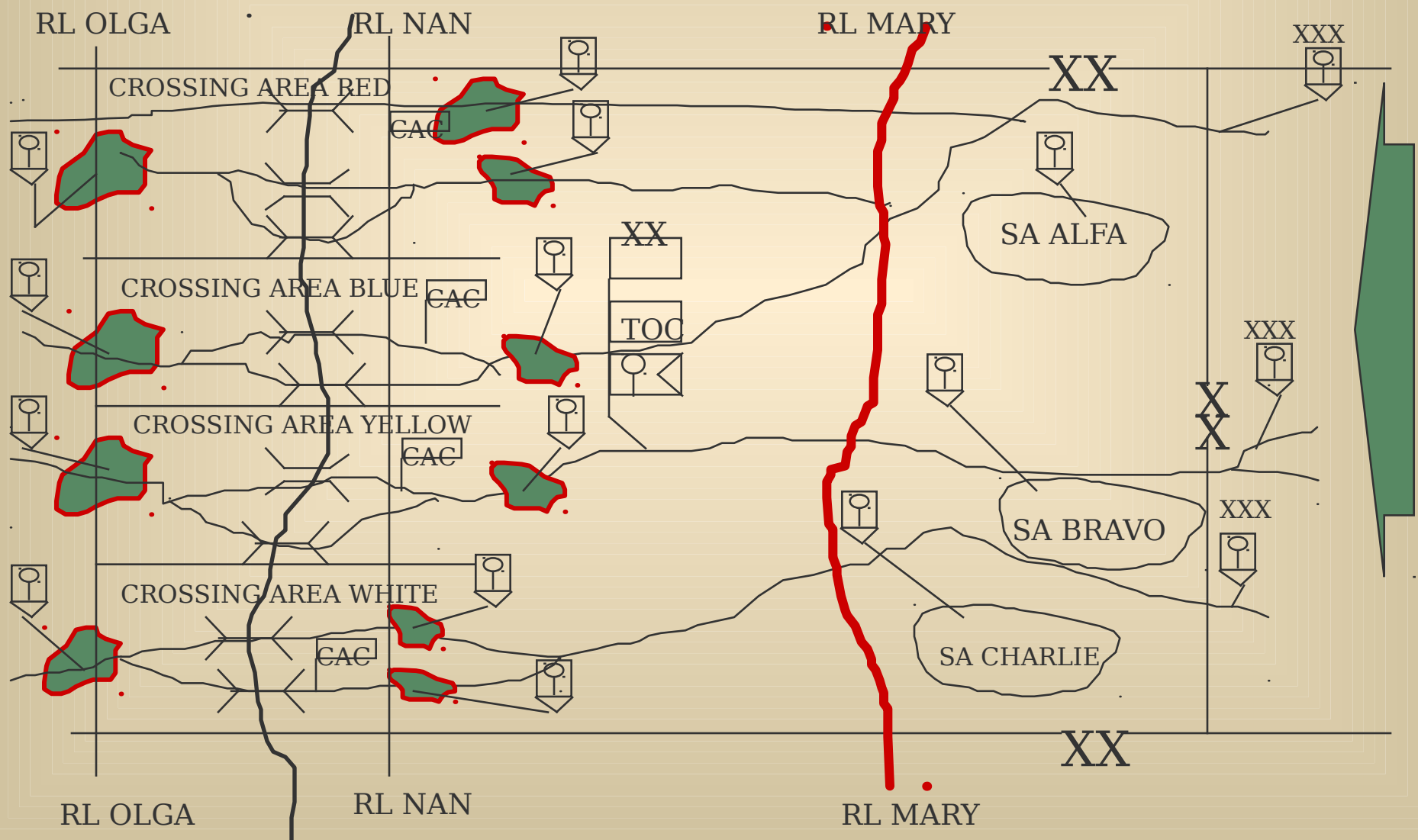
# **HOLDING AREAS**

- SPACE FOR VEHICLE TO HALT AND DISPERS
- LOCATED WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CROSS  
AREA
- ALONG ROADS TO BRIDGES AND RAFT SITE

# RELEASE LINES

DELINEATES AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
TRAFFIC REGULATION AND CONTROL AS  
EXERCISED BY DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF  
COMMAND

# RELEASE LINE/HOLDING AREA



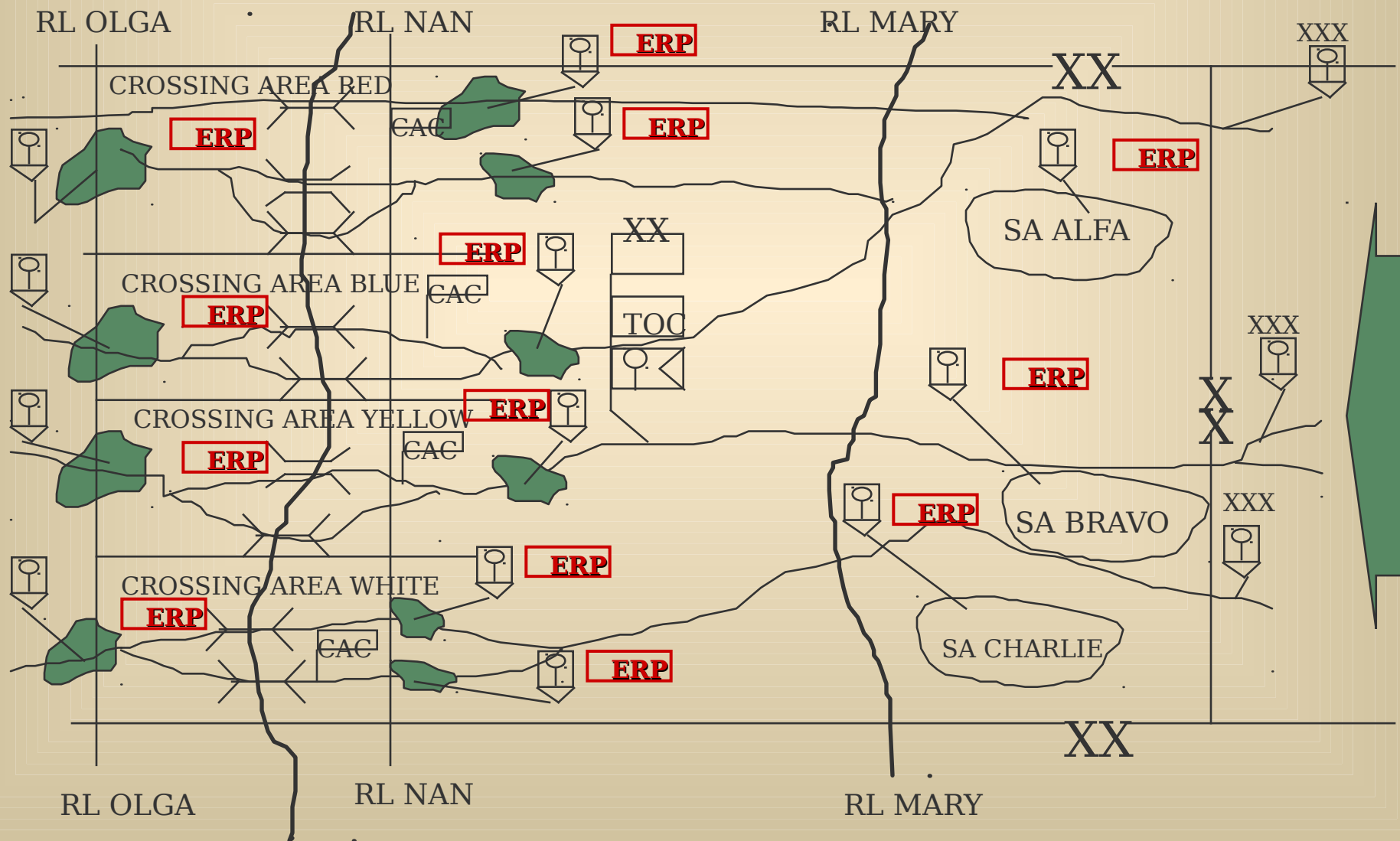
# ENGINEER REGULATING POINTS

LOCATED NEAR OR WITHIN

1. STAGING AREAS
2. HOLDING AREAS
3. CROSSINGSITES

MISSION: TO INSURE VEHICLES CROSSING THE R  
MATCH THE CROSSING MEANS

# ENGINEER REGULATING POINT



# TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT

- CROSSING AND JUNCTIONS
- STAGING AREAS
- HOLDING AREAS
- ERP'S
- CROSSING SITES



# **TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT FUNCTIONS**

- REFUGEE CONTROL
- INFORMATION DISSEMINATION
- CIRCULATION CONTROL
- ROUTE SECURITY
- STRAGGLER CONTROL
- INTELLIGENCE GATHERING/REPORTING

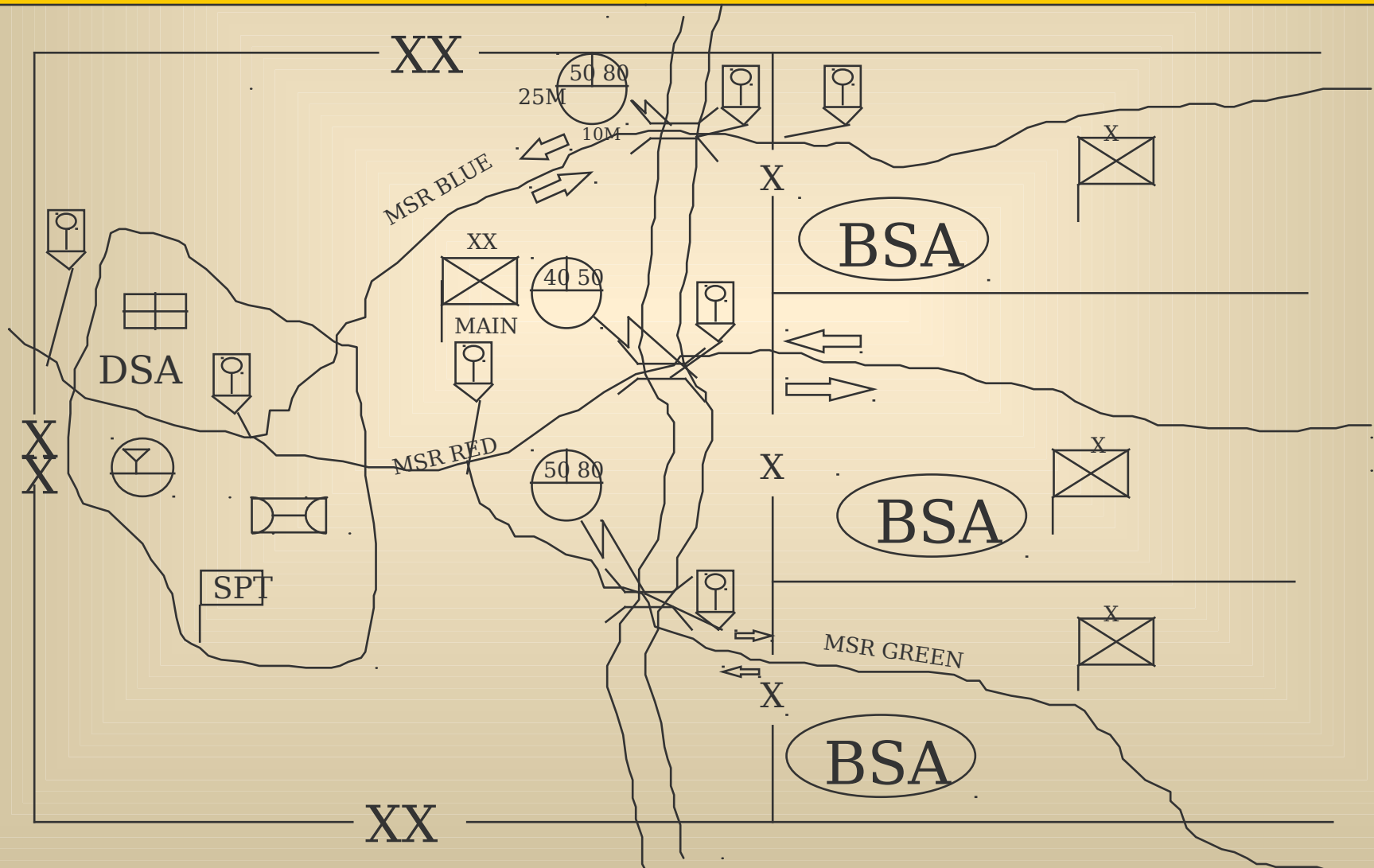


# TRAFFIC CONTROL HEADQUARTERS

- ASSIST CROSSING FORCE STAFF
- ALLOTS ROUTES AND TIMING
- PREPARES ROAD MOVEMENT TABLES
- PREPARES TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PLAN
- MONITORS TRAFFIC MOVEMENT



# TRAFFIC CIRCULATION CONTROL PLAN



# CROSSING SCHEDULE

USUALLY IN H-HOUR FORMAT

DISSEMINATED TO TEAM LEVEL

COMMUNICATIN IS ESSENTIAL

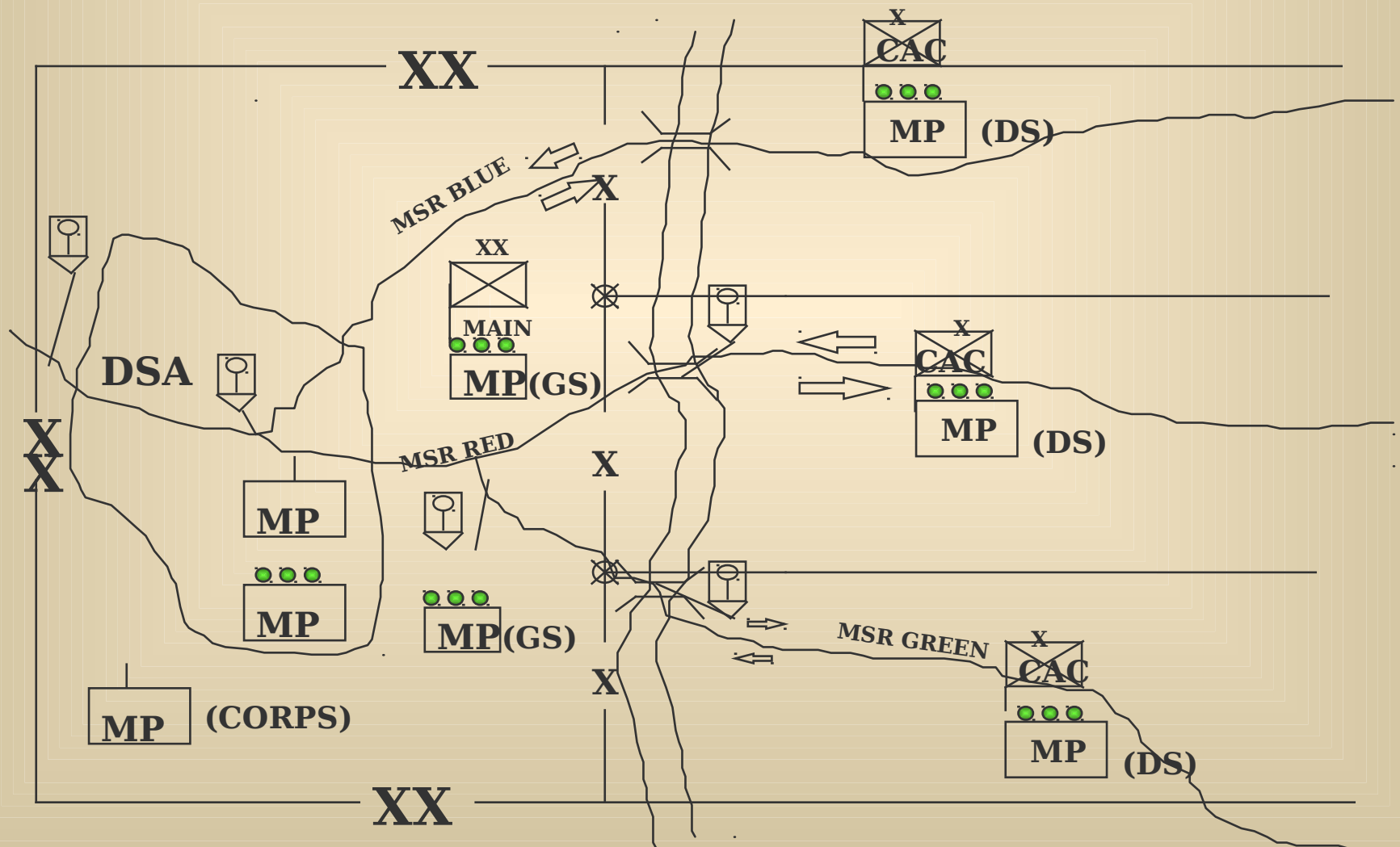
CROSSING AREA

COMMANDER

CROSSING FORCE HQ

ENGINEER NET

# MP TASK ORGANIZATION/DEPLOYMENT



# EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR RIVER CROSSING

- COMMAND AND CONTROL
  - CENTRALIZED CONTROL
  - DECENTRALIZED EXECUTION
- PRIORITY OF FUNCTION
  - CIRCULATION CONTROL
  - PW CONTROL



# **MMSO DURING RIVER CROSSING**

ROUTE RECON/SURVEILLANCE  
MSR

REGULATION/ENFORCEMENT

REFUGEE CONTROL

STRAGGLE CONTROL

INTEL COLLECTION/REPORTING

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

# **AREA SECURITY DURING RIVER CROSSING**

AREA RECON/SURVEILLANCE  
SECURITY OF CRITICAL ASSETS  
SECURITY OF SPECIAL  
AMMUNITION  
BASE RESPONSE OPERATIONS  
AIR BASE GROUND DEFENSE  
TERRORISM COUNTERACTION  
COUNTERINCURSION OPERATIONS  
AREA DAMAGE CONTROL  
OPERATIONS

# **INTERNMENT & RESETTLEMENT DURING RIVER CROSSING OPS**

COLLECTION

EVACUATION

INTERNMENT



# **LAW AND ORDER DURING RIVER CROSSING OPS**

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

US MILITARY PRISONER  
CONFINEMENT

# QUESTIONS

